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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/077,089	02/15/2002	Heinz Wyss	88265-5837	3490

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PATENT DEPARTMENT
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WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3502

EXAMINER

WONG, LESLIE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1761

DATE MAILED: 05/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AS-8

Office Action Summary

Application No.
10/077,089

Applicant(s)
Wyss et al.

Examiner
Leslie Wong

Art Unit
1761



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 16, 2002
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dalan et al.

Dalan et al teach a process for the production of an evaporated milk containing fat comprising mixing whey with a milk product to form a lactic product, heat treating and concentrating the lactic product, heat treating and homogenizing the concentrate, cooling, packaging, and sterilizing the concentrated product (see entire patent, especially claims 1 and 7).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Dalan et al in view of Engel et al.

Dalan et al disclose a process for the production of an evaporated milk containing fat comprising mixing whey with a milk product to form a lactic product, heat treating and concentrating the lactic product, heat treating and homogenizing the concentrate, cooling, packaging, and sterilizing the concentrated product (see entire patent, especially claims 1 and 7).

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The claims differ as to the use of a calcium sequestering agent and carrageenan.

Engel et al disclose a process for preparing a milk product comprising mixing a whey product solution with a milk source and further processing by heat treating, homogenizing, conditioning, and sterilizing (see entire patent, especially column 1, lines 30-62). Engel et al also disclose the use of a calcium sequestering agent and carrageenate components and times and temperatures to dissolve the whey (see entire patent, especially claim 1). Engel et al disclose the conventional use of a sequestering agent and carrageenan to prevent precipitation (see column 2, lines 8-59).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use the calcium sequestering agent and carrageenan as taught by Engel et al in that Dalan et al because the use of a sequestering agent and carrageenan is conventional in the art. The sequestering agent and the carrageenan are used for no more than their art-recognized function.

In the absence of unexpected results, it is not seen how the claimed invention differs from the teachings of the prior art. Applicant's claims are drawn to a combination of known components which produces expected results, see *In re Kerkhoven* 205 USPQ 1069 and *In re Gershon* 152 USPQ 602.

Applicant's arguments filed December 16, 2002 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

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All of the claim limitations and arguments have been considered. None of them are seen as serving as basis for patentability.

No claim is allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is (703) 308-1979. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

The fax number for this Group is (703) 872-9310 for non-final responses and (703) 872-9311 for after-final responses.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie Wong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

Leslie Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1761

LAW
May 6, 2003